that every man, however educated he may be in his own eyes or in the eyes of the world, should feel an inclination for technical work of any kind, for manual labour, intellectual labour and any other kind of labour. It is with this object that manual training has been introduced in schools.

Government are also of the opinion that manual training need not be of a uniform kind throughout all the schools in the State. The question of adapting manual training to the leading industry in any particular locality and of differentiating the kind of the manual training according to the main industry that is prevalent in the locality is under consideration.

The other useful and valuable suggestions made by you will be considered.

### 75. Educational Reforms

MR. A. P. NAIR (*Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) said that the Education Department was the most important branch in the State administration. The system of education now in vogue was the one which was formulated so early as 1070 by Dr. Mitchell and revised again in 1085. It had not been possible to make any substantial change in the system to suit modern requirements and changed conditions, till now. From the time of the late Dewan, Dewan Bahadur Sir. M. Krishnan Nair, the necessity of reforming the educational system of the State was being pressed on the attention of the Government, but without any result. The present system of education was the cause of the physical and mental degeneration of the youths of the country. The present unemployment, poverty, communal bias, economic distress, lack of health and increase in diseases, in fact, the present moral, mental and material degeneration of the people, could be attributed to the system of education now adopted in the State.

There were many defects in the administration of the Education department of the State. In fact the department had become a lifeless machinery, mainly existing for conducting examinations and inspections, for making appointments and for exercising disciplinary action against the subordinates. It had no concern regarding the student population or the educational policy which should benefit them. It was a great pity that every year Rs. 40 lakhs were spent in maintaining such a department.

There was not a single individual among the student population who knew Travancore History and Travancore Geography. These subjects were taught only up to the fourth class. In all the civilized countries of the world, the teaching of the history and geography of one's own country was given very great prominence in the curricula of studies in the schools. But the State Education department was quite averse to the introduction of such subjects in the schools of the State.

The Text Book Committee was not functioning properly. Many vagaries were perpetuated therein. None of the books selected by

them as text books were useful to the pupils. The Malayalam Readers, prepared by the members of the Committee after receving substantial remuneration, clearly showed the lack of modern educational ideas in their authors. Such men were incompetent to undertake the onerous responsibility of revising the educational system of the State. Three or four broad-minded men should be selected and they should be deputed to Europe, America, Japan and other advanced countries to study the educational system prevelent there. On their return, they should be entrusted with the work of revising the educational system of the State. This was what was being done by other countries also. An expenditure of Rs. 10 or 12 lakhs incurred on this account would not be too much for a State like Travancore, where every year Rs. 40 lakhs were spent for educational purposes.

The administration of the department was not properly conducted Vagaries were quite common. The acting hands of the department were subjected to much hardship. More than one thousand men, who had acting service for five years, were out of employ periodically. The special staff appointed to give effect to the revision of pay of the staff was not able to do much, though more than two years had now elapsed. It would appear that the question of confirming the acting teachers would be taken up only after the special staff had completed their present work. If that was true, nothing else was required to prove the inefficiency of the department. The Vernacular branch of the department, for which Rs. 20 lakhs were spent annually, had been paralysed for the last six years. The condition of the poor low-paid peons had been completely forgotten. The Inspectress of Girls' Schools was doing much injustice. That officer followed no principle in the matter of appointments and transfers.

There was general discontent in the department. Disappointments prevailed everywhere. The relationship between the students and the teachers, and between the teachers and the higher authorities was not cordial. So also was the relationship between the departmental authorities and the Governmant. The creation of appointments for the sake of persons was undesirable and should be put a stop to. There was a rumour that it was contemplated to restore the posts of Range Inspectors. This should never be sanctioned.

Lastly, the member referred to the undesirability of having appointed again, as the President of the Examination Board, the officer about whom there was so much complaint in the previous year. This year also the school final results would be very poor. The persons who were appointed as assistant examiners were people who had no idea about the standard of the school final examination. Formerly the Director himself appointed the assistant examiners. But this time the power was delegated to the President of the Examination Board.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. A. P. Nair. You have, with your characteristic forcefulness of expression, raised certain points for the consideration of Government in the interest of education in the State. The main points that you raised have already been referred to by previous

speakers; and in reply to them, I have stated what the Government's view of the matter is. I have merely to assure you in addition that the Government is not unaware of the desire that has been generally expressed by everybody that the curriculum of studies in the lower classes must be changed and that the system of education itself must be revised. Government are considering the matter and your suggestions will be given due weight.

### 76. Municipal Administration.

MR. K. MANI JACOB (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*) Speaking in Malayalam, made the following suggestions for the better working of the Municipalities in the State:—

(1) Section 11 (*c*) of the Municipal Regulation should be so amended as to remove sex disqualification for membership in the council. Women were now eligible to be members of the Legislative Council and the S. M. P. Assembly. To begain with, at least two lady members should be nominated by the Government to each of the major Municipalities.

(2) The present practice of making non-members of the Council also eligible for the Presidentship should be changed and only Councillors should be made eligible for the place. This would be an inducement to the more efficient and capable men to seek election to the Councils.

(3) A member should not be allowed to continue in office for more than three years. Section 13 (3) of the Regulation was being largely misused now.

(4) The Government should conduct an enquiry regarding the delay in publishing the name of the member elected for the second ward of the Kottayam Municipality and should issue a Proceedings regarding the same. The election was conducted in 1103 and the name was duly reported to the Government for publication in the Gazette. But neither the name had been published in the Gazette till now, nor the election had been declared invalid.

(5) The election of members and the publication of their names in the Gazette took some time. Hence the Government should instruct the Municipalities to conduct the election two months before the expiry of their term, so as to enable the names of the newly elected members, being published in the Gazette, in the same month in which heir term expired.

(6) The proceedings of the meetings of the Councils were published in the Gazette to enable the public to know what took place in the meetings of the Councils. But this object was now being defeated by the Presidents publishing only mere abstracts of the proceedings and that long after the date of the meetings. Hence it should be arranged that the complete proceedings of the meetings of the Councils should be published in the Gazette within a week, and that copies of it should be furnished to all the Council members. If there was any additional expenditure on this account to the Government, the same should be charged to the respective Municipalities.